



Application for Sell by and Best by Milk Date Labeling Greater Than 17 Days

Application process:

1. Applicant wishing to exceed 17 days for sell by date or best by date on milk must complete and submit this application to the Department.
2. Facility must submit samples of each milk type, in each container type and container size for which they are applying for a sell by or best by date greater than 17 days, to a Pennsylvania approved dairy laboratory for bacteriological shelf life testing. The testing protocol to be used is set forth in 3 Pa.C.S. § 5744 as follows:
 - a. Each milk type and type and volume of container shall be sampled from at least three different production days and submitted unopened to a Pennsylvania approved dairy laboratory, and shall be received by the lab within 2 days (3 days over a weekend) of production;
 - b. The Pennsylvania approved dairy laboratory shall hold the samples unopened, and maintained at a temperature of between 34 and 45 degrees Fahrenheit for no less than the entire proposed sell by date or best by date period;
 - c. After the proposed sell by date or best by date period ends, each sample shall be opened and tested for bacterial count; and
 - d. The testing shall have been completed within the three (3) months preceding the date this application is submitted to the Department.
3. If test results are within the bacteriological limits for milk described in the Department's milk sanitation regulations, then the proposed sell by date or best by date will be approved. If test results from two (2) or more samples are not within the bacterial limits in the Department's milk sanitation regulations, the Department will calculate a reduced sell by date or best by date. The facility may retest but will be required to use the reduced sell by date or best by date until the facility submits a new application for approval, to include testing, demonstrating the facility can comply with the bacteriological limits at the proposed sell by or best by date.
- 4. All test results must be submitted with this application.**
5. Facilities with a sell by or best by date greater than 17 days, shall continue routine testing on the highest sales volume milk type in each container types and container size, at an interval of no longer than six (6) months.
6. Failure to comply with the Milk Sanitation Law and its attended regulations may result in enforcement action by the Department against the applicant.
7. PDA reserves the right to revoke approval status.
8. This approval shall be void if ownership is changed.

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Return the completed application and any other correspondence to:

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Food Safety and Laboratory Services
ATTN: Milk Program Specialist
2301 North Cameron Street, Room 112
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Fax (717)-787-1873
Email: RA-AGMilkProgram@pa.gov



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF FOOD SAFETY AND LABORATORY SERVICES

2/2022

Application for Sell by and Best by Milk Date Labeling Greater Than 17 Days

Facility ID: _____ Facility Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Point of Contact: _____

Proposed Sell by or Best by date _____ (# Of Days)

*Lab conducting testing: _____

Milk product (s): _____

Container type(s): Glass, Plastic, Paper, or other: _____

Container size(s): _____

Applicant signature _____ Date _____

Applicant Name (printed) _____



Bureau of Food Safety and Laboratory Services Use Only

Lab testing provided _____ Date of lab testing _____

Lab testing compliant _____ If not how many samples were out of compliance _____

Sell by or Best by day approved for _____ days Date of Approval _____

Products approved: _____

Sell by or Best by day approved for _____ days Date of Approval _____

Products approved: _____

Calculated date approved for the following products: _____

Department Approval Signature: _____ Date _____